Preliminary Amendment dated September 1, 2006

Page 4

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

- 1. (Original) An automotive engine oil comprising a base oil and an antiwear additive system comprising an ester which is the reaction product of
- (a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;
- (b) a dimer fatty acid; and
- (c) optionally at least one of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms, an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 5 to 24 carbon atoms and an aliphatic monofunctional alcohol having 5 to 24 carbon atoms with the resultant ester having a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm²/s and a non-polarity index (NPI)

NPI = <u>total number of carbon atoms * molecul. weight</u> number of carboxylate groups x 100

- 2. (Original) An automotive engine oil comprising a base oil and an antiwear additive system comprising an ester which is the reaction product of
- (a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;
- (b) a dimer fatty acid; and
- (c) at least one of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms, an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 5 to 24 carbon atoms and an aliphatic monofunctional alcohol having 5 to 24 carbon atoms with the resultant ester having a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm²/s and a non-polarity index (NPI)

Preliminary Amendment dated September 1, 2006

Page 5

NPI = total number of carbon atoms * molecul. weight number of carboxylate groups x 100

- 3. (Currently amended) An automotive engine oil according to either of claims 1 and 2 claim 1 wherein (c) is an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms.
- 4. (Currently amended) An automotive engine oil according to any of claims 1 to 3 claim 1 wherein the polyfunctional alcohol is a polyol of formula R(OH)n where n is an integer which ranges from 1 to 10 and R is a hydrocarbon chain of 2 to 15 carbon atoms where the polyol is of molecular weight in the range from 50 to 650.
- 5. (Currently amended) An automotive engine oil according to any of claims 1 to 4 claim 1 wherein the resultant ester has a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C of 900 to 4000 mm²/s.
- 6. (Currently amended) An automotive engine oil according to any of claims 1 to 5 claim 1 wherein the resultant ester has an NPI value of at least 900.
- 7. (Currently amended) An automotive engine oil according to any of claims 1 to 6 claim 1 wherein the resultant ester has an average molecular weight of at least 3000.
- 8. (Currently amended) An automotive engine oil according to any of claims 1 to 7 claim 1 wherein the resultant ester is the reaction product of neopentylglycol with dimer acid and azeleic acid.
- 9. (Currently amended) An automotive engine oil according to any of claims 1 to 8 claim 1 wherein the antiwear additive system further comprises a phosphorus-containing and/or sulphur- containing antiwear additive.
- 10. (Original) An automotive engine oil according to claim 9 wherein the further antiwear additive is both a phosphorus-containing and sulphur-containing additive.

Preliminary Amendment dated September 1, 2006

Page 6

- 5

11. (Currently amended) An automotive engine oil according to either of claims 9 or 40 claim 9 wherein the futher antiwear additive is zinc dialkyl dithiophosphate.

- 12. (Original) A method of reducing wear in an automotive engine by the use of an automotive engine oil comprising a base oil and an antiwear additive system comprising an ester which is the reaction product of
- (a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;
- (b) a dimer fatty acid; and
- (c) optionally at least one of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms, an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 5 to 24 carbon atoms and an aliphatic monofunctional alcohol having 5 to 24 carbon atoms with the resultant ester having a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm²/s and a non-polarity index (NPI)

NPI = <u>total number of carbon atoms * molecul. weight</u> number of carboxylate groups x 100

- 13. (Original) Use of an automotive engine oil comprising a base oil and an antiwear additive system comprising an ester which is the reaction product of
- (a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;
- (b) a dimer fatty acid; and
- (c) optionally at least one of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms, an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 5 to 24 carbon atoms and an aliphatic monofunctional alcohol having 5 to 24 carbon atoms with the resultant ester having a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm²/s and a non-polarity index (NPI)

Preliminary Amendment dated September 1, 2006

Page 7

- 2

NPI = <u>total number of carbon atoms * molecul. weight</u> number of carboxylate groups x 100

of at least 500 to reduce wear in an automotive engine.

- 14. (Original) Use of an antiwear additive system comprising an ester which is the reaction product of
- (a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;
- (b) a dimer fatty acid; and
- (c) optionally at least one of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms, an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 5 to 24 carbon atoms and an aliphatic monofunctional alcohol having 5 to 24 carbon atoms with the resultant ester having a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm²/s and a non-polarity index (NPI)

NPI = <u>total number of carbon atoms * molecul. weight</u> number of carboxylate groups x 100

of at least 500 in an automotive engine oil.

- 15. (Original) A method of reducing wear in an automotive engine by the addition of an automotive engine oil comprising a base oil and an ester which is the reaction product of
- (a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;
- (b) a dimer fatty acid; and
- (c) optionally at least one of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms, an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 5 to 24 carbon atoms and an aliphatic monofunctional alcohol having 5 to 24 carbon atoms with the resultant ester having a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm²/s and a non-polarity index (NPI)

Preliminary Amendment dated September 1, 2006

Page 8

- हे

NPI = <u>total number of carbon atoms * molecul. weight</u> number of carboxylate groups x 100

of at least 500 wherein the automotive engine oil has a phosphorus level of no more than 0.08%.

- 16. (Original) An antiwear additive system comprising an ester which is the reaction product of
- (a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;
- (b) a dimer fatty acid; and
- (c) optionally at least one of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms, an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 7 to 24 carbon atoms and an aliphatic monofunctional alcohol having 7 to 24 carbon atoms with the resultant ester having a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm²/s and a non-polarity index (NPI)

NPI = <u>total number of carbon atoms * molecul. weight</u> number of carboxylate groups x 100

- 17. (Original) An automotive engine comprising an automotive engine oil comprising a base oil and an antiwear additive system comprising an ester which is the reaction product of
- (a) at least one polyfunctional alcohol;
- (b) a dimer fatty acid; and
- (c) optionally at least one of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms, an aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 5 to 24 carbon atoms and an aliphatic monofunctional alcohol having 5 to 24 carbon atoms with the resultant ester

Attorney Reference: 11801-003-999
Preliminary Amendment dated September 1, 2006

Page 9

. 1

having a kinematic viscosity at 100 °C ranging from 500 to 5000 mm²/s and a nonpolarity index (NPI)

> NPI = total number of carbon atoms * molecul. weight number of carboxylate groups x 100